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Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

Twenty-fifth session
(17-23 April 2015)

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Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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Chapter I
Introduction

1. The Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) was established in pursuance of General Assembly resolutions 32/162 of 19 December 1977 and 56/206 of 21 December 2001.

2. The report of the Governing Council on the work of its twenty-fifth session is submitted to the General Assembly in accordance with section II, paragraph 6, of resolution 32/162 and paragraph 7 of section A of General Assembly resolution 56/206.

3. The Governing Council consists of 58 members, each elected for a four-year term by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations: 16 from African States, 13 from Asia-Pacific States, 6 from Eastern European States, 10 from Latin American and Caribbean States and 13 from Western European and other States. At the time of its twenty-fifth session, the Governing Council had five vacant seats.

4. At the time of its twenty-fifth session, the Governing Council was composed of the following members, whose terms of office expire on 31 December of the year in brackets after the country name:

African States (16)
Benin (2016)
Burkina Faso (2015)
Congo (2015)
Democratic Republic of the Congo (2018)
Egypt (2018)
Gabon (2018)
Ghana (2018)
Lesotho (2015)
Madagascar (2016)
Morocco (2016)
Senegal (2018)
Somalia (2016)
South Africa (2015)
Uganda (2016)
United Republic of Tanzania (2015)
Zimbabwe (2018)

Western European and other States (13)
Finland (2018)
France (2016)
Germany (2015)
Israel (2015)
Italy (2015)
Norway (2016)
Spain (2016)
United States of America (2018)

Five vacant seats

Latin American and Caribbean States (10)
Antigua and Barbuda (2016)
Argentina (2018)
Brazil (2015)
Colombia (2016)
Ecuador (2018)
El Salvador (2016)
Guatemala (2018)
Haiti (2015)
Mexico (2015)
Uruguay (2018)

Eastern European States (6)
Belarus (2016)
Georgia (2015)
Romania (2016)
Russian Federation (2018)
Serbia (2015)
Slovakia (2018)

Asia-Pacific States (13)
Bahrain (2015)
Bangladesh (2016)
China (2016)
India (2015)
Indonesia (2018)
Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2018)
Iraq (2018)
Japan (2018)
Jordan (2015)
Republic of Korea (2016)
Saudi Arabia (2015)
Sri Lanka (2016)
Thailand (2015)

5. The twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council was held at the headquarters of UN-Habitat in Nairobi from 17 to 23 April 2015.

Chapter II
Organization of the session (agenda items 1-4)

A. Opening of the session

6. The twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council was opened at 9.15 a.m. on Friday, 17 April 2015, by Franz Marré (Germany), Rapporteur of the twenty-fourth session of the Council.

7. The Governing Council observed a minute of silence to pay tribute to the memories of those who lost their lives in the terrorist attack on Garissa University College, Kenya, on 2 April 2015.

8. Opening statements were made by the Director General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi, Sahle-Work Zewde, who also read a statement on behalf of the Secretary General; the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Achim Steiner; the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Joan Clos; and the President of Kenya, Uhuru Kenyatta.

9. Following the opening statements, the World Habitat Awards for 2014-2015 were presented.

B. Attendance

10. The following States members of the Governing Council were represented: Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Brazil, Burkina Faso, China, Colombia, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Islamic Republic of Iran, Israel, Italy, Japan, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mexico, Morocco, Norway, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay and Zimbabwe.

11. The following States not members of the Governing Council participated as observers: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Australia, Austria, Barbados, Belgium, Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cabo Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Comoros, Cuba, Denmark, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Kenya, Kuwait, Liberia, Libya, Maldives, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritius, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Togo, Turkey, Ukraine, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Zambia.

12. Observers to UN-Habitat for the Holy See and the State of Palestine also participated.

13. The following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies were represented: the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the United Nations Office for Project Services and the United Nations Development Programme.

14. Representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations also attended: the League of Arab States, the African Union, the European Union, Shelter Afrique and the International Organization for Migration.

15. A full list of those attending the session may be found in the list of participants (HSP/GC/25/INF/9).

C. Election of officers

16. At its 1st plenary meeting, on the morning of Friday, 17 April 2015, the Governing Council elected the following officers for the session:

President:
Mr. Ján Ilavský (Slovakia)

Vice-Presidents:
Mr. Franz Marré (Germany)
Mr. Nii Lantey Vanderpuye (Ghana)
Ms. Nandita Chatterjee (India)

Rapporteur:
Mr. Fernando Lugris (Uruguay)

D. Credentials

17. In pursuance of rule 16, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure of the Governing Council, the Bureau reported to the Council at its 5th plenary meeting, on the morning of Tuesday, 21 April 2015, that it had examined the credentials submitted by delegations attending the twenty-fifth session of the Council and had found them to be in order. The Council approved the report of the Bureau on credentials at the same meeting.

E. Adoption of the agenda

18. At its 1st plenary meeting, the Governing Council had before it the provisional agenda for the session (HSP/GC/25/1). The President recalled that the Executive Director had written to the members of the Council on 14 April to request that an additional item, on an amendment to rule 19 of the rules of procedure, be included in the agenda.

19. In the light of the request of the Executive Director, the Governing Council adopted the following agenda for its twenty-fifth session:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Credentials.
4. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
5. Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including coordination matters.

6. Dialogue on the special theme for the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council.

7. Work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 2016-2017.

8. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council.

9. Amendment to the rules of procedure of the Governing Council.

10. Other matters.

11. Adoption of the report of the session.

12. Closure of the session.

F. Organization of work

20. At its 1st plenary meeting, the Governing Council established a sessional committee of the whole, to which it allocated agenda items 5, 7 and 8. The Council would consider item 6 and issues arising under items 5 and 7 and other items during its plenary meetings.

21. The work of the plenary meetings for the first three days of the session was divided into two segments: a high-level segment, featuring general debate by ministers and other high-level representatives, would be held on the first and second days and a dialogue of Governments with local authorities and other partners on the special theme of the session would be held on the third day.

22. The Governing Council also established a drafting committee to consider the draft resolutions submitted to the Council. It was agreed that the draft resolutions recommended by the Committee of Permanent Representatives would first be considered by the Committee of the Whole, which would submit them to the drafting committee for further consideration, and that, following their consideration by the drafting committee, they would be submitted to the Council through the Committee for possible adoption at a plenary meeting.

23. In considering the agenda items, the Governing Council had before it the documents listed for each item in the annotations to the agenda for the session (HSP/GC/25/1/Add.1).

G. Work of the Committee of the Whole (agenda items 5, 7 and 8)

24. The Committee of the Whole established by the Governing Council at its 1st plenary meeting was chaired by Nii Lantey Vanderpuye (Ghana), one of the three Vice-Presidents of the Council. It held five meetings between 17 and 23 April. At its 1st meeting, on the afternoon of Friday, 17 April 2015, the Chair informed the Committee that it would consider agenda items 5, 7 and 8.

25. At its 4th meeting, on Wednesday, 22 April 2015, the Committee adopted the report on its deliberations (see HSP/GC/25/6, annex V). At its meetings, it had succeeded in achieving consensus on all the agenda items before it.

H. Work of the drafting committee and adoption of resolutions (agenda items 5, 7 and 8)

26. The drafting committee held 12 meetings during the session and reached agreement by consensus on seven draft resolutions.

27. The resolutions, as adopted by the Governing Council at its 7th plenary meeting, on the evening of Thursday, 23 April 2015, are set out in the annex to the present report.

Chapter III

High-level segment and dialogue on the special theme for the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council (agenda items 5-7)

A. High-level segment

28. The Governing Council took up agenda items 5-7 at its 2nd plenary meeting, on the afternoon on Friday, 17 April 2015, at which time it began the high-level general debate on those items. The general debate continued at the 3rd and 4th meetings, on Monday, 20 April 2015 (see HSP/GC/25/6, annex III).

B. Dialogue on the special theme for the twenty-fifth session

29. At its 5th and 6th plenary meetings, on Tuesday, 21 April 2015, the Governing Council held a dialogue on the special theme for the session under agenda item 6. The dialogue consisted of a keynote speech and a discussion session in the morning, followed by a discussion session and a closing session in the afternoon. The discussion sessions featured a moderator and a panel of speakers, presentations by the panellists, comments from the floor and reactions from the panellists (see HSP/GC/25/6, annex IV).

Chapter IV

Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council (agenda item 8)

30. The Governing Council took up the item at its 7th plenary meeting, on the evening of Thursday, 23 April 2015, and adopted decision 25/2 on the provisional agenda for its twenty-sixth session (see annex). The Council also decided, on the recommendation of the Bureau, that the session should be held from 3 to 7 April 2017 at UN-Habitat headquarters in Nairobi.

Chapter V

Amendment to the rules of procedure of the Governing Council (agenda item 9)

31. The Governing Council took up the item at its 1st plenary meeting, on the morning of Friday, 17 April 2015, and established a working group, chaired by Michal Mlynár (Slovakia), to review the proposed amendment to rule 19 of the rules of procedure of the Council and report to the Council during the session.

32. Subsequently, at the 7th plenary meeting, on the evening of Thursday, 23 April 2015, the Chair of the working group said that the group had held two meetings and proposed an amendment to rule 19 of the rules of procedure in the form of a draft decision.

33. The Governing Council adopted the draft decision (decision 25/1).

Chapter VI
Other matters (agenda item 10)

34. The President of the Governing Council called upon member States to take note of vacant seats in the membership of the Governing Council and encouraged them to fill those seats during the coordination and management meetings of the Economic and Social Council, to be held from 8 to 10 June 2015 and from 20 to 22 July 2015.

35. The Governing Council observed a minute of silence to pay tribute to the United Nations staff members and others slain in a terrorist attack in Garowe, Somalia, on 20 April 2015.

Chapter VII
Adoption of the report of the session (agenda item 11)

36. At the 7th plenary meeting, on the evening of Thursday, 23 April 2015, the Chair of the Committee of the Whole gave an oral presentation on the deliberations of the Committee.

37. At the same meeting, the Governing Council adopted the report of the session, on the basis of the draft that had been circulated during the session and on the understanding that the secretariat and the Rapporteur would be entrusted with its finalization.

Chapter VIII
Closure of the session (agenda item 12)

38. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the President declared the session closed at 8 p.m. on Thursday, 23 April 2015.

Annex

Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme at its twenty-fifth session

A. Resolutions

Resolution No.	*Title*	*Date of adoption*	*Page*
25/1	Contribution of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to the post-2015 development agenda in order to promote sustainable urban development and human settlements	23 April 2015	9
25/2	Strengthening national ownership and operational capacity	23 April 2015	11
25/3	Strategic plan for 2014-2019 and the work programme and budget of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the biennium 2016-2017	23 April 2015	12
25/4	Implementation of the strategic plan for 2014-2019	23 April 2015	16
25/5	Support by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) and the role of national Habitat committees in its preparation and implementation	23 April 2015	20
25/6	International guidelines on urban and territorial planning	23 April 2015	22
25/7	United Nations Human Settlements Programme governance reform	23 April 2015	23

B. Decisions

Decision No.	*Title*	*Date of adoption*	*Page*
25/1	Amendment to rule 19 of the rules of procedure of the Governing Council	23 April 2015	25
25/2	Provisional agenda for the twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme	23 April 2015	25

A. Resolutions

25/1. Contribution of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to the post-2015 development agenda in order to promote sustainable urban development and human settlements

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 69/226 of 19 December 2014 on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat),

Reaffirming the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[1] in which Heads of State and Government recognized that, if well planned and developed, including through integrated planning and management approaches, cities could promote economically, socially and environmentally sustainable societies, and committed themselves to working towards improving the quality of human settlements, including the living and working conditions of both urban and rural dwellers in the context of poverty eradication so that all people would have access to basic services, housing and mobility,

Recalling resolution 17/10 of 14 May 1999 of the Commission on Human Settlements, in which the Commission requested that urban-rural interdependence should be taken into consideration in the execution of the work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme given the strong synergy between urban and rural areas,

Recalling also its resolution 19/10 of 9 May 2003, in which it requested the Executive Director to raise awareness regarding the direct relationship between positive urban-rural development and sustainable urbanization and to help develop the capacity of central Governments and local authorities in that area, particularly in developing countries,

Recalling further its resolution 24/10 of 19 April 2013, in which it requested the Executive Director, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to ensure that the United Nations Human Settlements Programme contributed to the development and implementation of the post-2015 development agenda in order to promote sustainable urbanization,

Recalling its resolution 24/5 of 19 April 2013, in which it requested the Executive Director, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to develop a general guiding framework for the development, where appropriate, of national urban policies, based on international good experiences, to further support member States when developing and improving their urban policies,

Recalling also its resolution 24/3 of 19 April 2013, in which it encouraged the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, in collaboration with member States and Habitat Agenda partners, to elaborate a set of agreed universal principles

[1] General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

for urban and territorial planning at the city level, in particular regarding planned city extensions, at the regional and the national level, with a particular focus on national urban policies,

Recognizing the importance of environmentally sound, safe and affordable transportation as a means of improving social equity, health, the resilience of cities, urban-rural linkages and the productivity of rural areas,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 68/309 of 10 September 2014, in which the Assembly welcomed the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals[2] and decided that it should be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, including proposed goal 11, of making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable,

Recognizing that the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals addresses urban-rural linkages in the context of its proposed goal 11 and its proposed targets with a view to supporting positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning,

Taking note of the report of the Executive Director on the special theme for the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council, "The contribution of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to the post-2015 development agenda in order to promote sustainable urban development and human settlements", sub-theme 1 on enhancing urban-rural linkages across the continuum of human settlements to harness the transformative power of urbanization for sustainable development and sub-theme 2 on the role of the Programme in the post-2015 development agenda,[3]

Recognizing the positive transformative potential of urbanization and strengthened urban-rural linkages in achieving sustainable development, as the way in which they connect a broad range of themes, sectors and actors in a territory, among other things, by contributing to the eradication of poverty, social inclusion, inclusive economic growth, enhancing access to basic urban services, supporting inclusive housing, enhancing job opportunities, productivity, creating and sharing benefits, and creating a safe and healthy living environment, also in the context of gender equality, young people and people in vulnerable situations,

1. *Encourages* member States to consider the important role that sustainable urbanization and human settlements can play as a key driver of sustainable development in their national and subnational development plans, as appropriate;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to support member States in the development and implementation of their urban policies to manage the continuum of human settlements;

3. *Also requests* the Executive Director to continue to promote political commitment to sustainable development, while encouraging planned, productive and integrated city growth, to ensure sustainable mobility, public spaces, including green spaces, urban regeneration and infills in order to contain urban sprawl, promoting access to affordable, reliable and sustainable modern energy services and energy efficiency, reduced environmental impacts of rural urban convergences and

[2] A/68/970 and Corr.1.

[3] HSP/GC/25/4.

mitigate and adapt to climate change, reducing air pollution while also promoting urban health and enhancing national and local authorities capacity to provide basic services;

4. *Invites* Governments to promote the reduction of disparities along the urban-rural continuum through, among other things, inclusive public and private investment in infrastructure and services across rural service centres and small, intermediate and secondary towns to strengthen linkages, as appropriate, and to promote the sustainable and balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development;

5. *Also invites* Governments to support the strengthening of the capacity of rural service centres and small, intermediate and secondary towns to attract populations, increase investment, create jobs and reduce reliance on primate cities as a strategy to promote decentralized growth;

6. *Encourages* the Executive Director to continue to promote the role of sustainable urbanization and human settlements as a transformative force for achieving and advancing sustainable development in support of the post-2015 development agenda;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director, consistent with existing mandates, to continue to mainstream urbanization and human settlement issues in the post-2015 development agenda and to contribute, as appropriate, to the work to be undertaken on the indicators by, among other things, providing expertise through the inter-agency and expert group on sustainable development goal indicators under the Statistical Commission;

8. *Encourages* member States to ensure policy coherence in the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda by promoting the active participation of relevant stakeholders, including local authorities;

9. *Requests* the Executive Director to work with member States to promote policy coherence within the mandate of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in the implementation of the relevant parts of the post-2015 development agenda by promoting the active participation of relevant stakeholders, including local authorities;

10. *Also requests* the Executive Director to develop tools and disseminate good practices to promote urban-rural linkages through investment in market towns and in intermediate cities through integrated regional and territorial planning to strengthen development corridors;

11. *Further requests* the Executive Director to continue to work closely with other intergovernmental organizations and stakeholders to strengthen urban-rural linkages, focusing on knowledge exchange, policy dialogue and capacity development;

12. *Invites* member States, with the assistance of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, as requested and in line with its work programme and budget, to initiate or enhance programmes and projects at the national or subnational level to strengthen the capacity of rural service centres and small and intermediate towns to improve the access of rural and peri-urban inhabitants to sustainable urban basic services, including water, sanitation, transportation and

energy, as well as access to social and economic services such as health, education, banking, retail and market services;

13. *Requests* the Executive Director, consistent with the approved work programme and budget, to support member States to enhance the capacity of national, subnational and local authorities to plan and manage sustainable urbanization in order to address existing and emerging challenges, including a response to climate change across the human settlements continuum;

14. *Encourages* member States and partners to provide appropriate support for the future work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in the implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2014-2019 and the outcomes of the post-2015 development agenda;

15. *Requests* the Executive Director to submit to the Governing Council at its twenty-sixth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

25/2. Strengthening national ownership and operational capacity

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 60/1 of 16 September 2005 on the 2005 World Summit Outcome, which provides strong support to system-wide coherence on the implementation of United Nations policy, operational and environmental activities, including humanitarian assistance,

Recalling also the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[4] in which it is recognized that the institutional framework for sustainable development should integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development in a balanced manner and enhance implementation by, among other things, strengthening coherence and coordination, avoiding duplication of effort and reviewing progress in implementing sustainable development,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 67/226 of 21 December 2012 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, in which the Assembly reaffirmed the importance of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities, established key system-wide policy orientations for the development cooperation and country-level modalities of the United Nations system and stressed that funding for operational activities should be aligned with the national priorities and plans of the programme countries, as well as the strategic plans, mandates, resource frameworks and priorities of the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 62/208 of 19 December 2007 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, recalling also the potential of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and its results matrix as the collective, coherent and integrated programming and monitoring framework for the operations of the United Nations development system at the country level, bringing increased

[4] General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

opportunities for joint initiatives, including joint programming, and recognizing the need for the United Nations development system to fully utilize such opportunities in the interest of enhancing aid efficiency and aid effectiveness,

Reaffirming the need to strengthen the United Nations with a view to enhancing its coherence and efficiency, as well as its capacity to address effectively, and in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the full range of development challenges of our time,

Bearing in mind the need for coherence and balance in the implementation of the normative and operational mandates of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme,

Recognizing that the strength of the United Nations and its operational system lies in its legitimacy, at the country level, as a neutral, objective and trusted partner,

Noting the role of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in supporting national Governments and local authorities to build capacity and strengthen technical and scientific cooperation, including through urban policies, as appropriate, to promote sustainable urbanization and human settlements,

Reaffirming the support of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for United Nations efforts, through inputs, as appropriate, to the annual report by the Secretary-General on the implementation of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review that provides Member States with an overview of the results achieved, as well as measures and processes implemented, in follow-up to the resolution of the General Assembly on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review,

Acknowledging the decision of the Specialized Technical Committee on Public Service, Local Government, Urban Development and Decentralization, adopted in Brazzaville in November 2014, to constitute a subcommittee on urban development and human settlements to give effect to the decision of the African Union ministers to transform the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development into an organ of the African Union,

Taking note of the outcome of the fifth Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development, as set out in the Seoul Declaration and Seoul Implementation Plan, as specific action to address the challenges faced by Asian and Pacific countries with regard to sustainable urban development and human settlements and to promote the implementation of programmes of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in the region,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director to work closely with member States, the Secretariat and the United Nations Development Group to fully implement the most recent resolution on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review in the programme of work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, with a view to substantially increasing the efficiency of operational activities at the country level, so as to improve the effectiveness of development results;

2. *Also requests* the Executive Director to strengthen the interlinkages between the operational and normative work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme so as to increase its capacity to provide evidence-based expertise for policy design and expertise for the implementation of policies;

3. *Further requests* the Executive Director to enhance the country programme document mechanism to ensure full alignment with the United Nations development and national development framework priorities of the relevant country, as appropriate, with a view to strengthening national ownership of the country-level activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director, in the context of the approved work programme and budget and the strategic plan for 2014-2019, to support national Governments to encourage local authorities and other stakeholders to improve the effective implementation of country programmes in the field, reach national objectives and strengthen local and national ownership;

5. *Also requests* the Executive Director to work closely with national Governments and United Nations country teams to incorporate the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme into the United Nations Development Assistance Framework model, or equivalent, and to engage actively with the "One United Nations" initiative;

6. *Encourages* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to continue its constructive collaboration with intergovernmental mechanisms such as the Meeting of Ministers and High-level Authorities of the Housing and Urban Development Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development, the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Public Service, Local Government, Urban Development and Decentralization and the Council of Arab Ministers for Housing, in addition to others that could provide opportune vehicles for driving policy change and programming and regional and national prioritization of sustainable urbanization and human settlements;

7. *Notes with appreciation* that, on 1 January 2015, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme made a successful transition to the International Public Sector Accounting Standards, and in this regard requests the Executive Director to achieve the full implementation of the enterprise resource planning project, Umoja, by June 2015 and to ensure adequate training of staff;

8. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to provide a conducive framework for realizing a model that links normative and operational activities, thus paving the way towards achieving well-defined and more tangible results for greater impact in the field;

9. *Also requests* the Executive Director to strengthen capacity-building activities in order to support the achievement of sustainable urban development in accordance with the strategic plan for 2014-2019 in the light of its potential contribution to the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda;

10. *Further requests* the Executive Director to report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Governing Council at its twenty-sixth session.

25/3. Strategic plan for 2014-2019 and the work programme and budget of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the biennium 2016-2017

The Governing Council,

Recalling the commitments made by Governments in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[5] to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and to achieving, among other things, a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020 and in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development[6] to halving, by 2015, the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 69/226 of 19 December 2014, in which the Assembly reaffirmed the outcome document, entitled "The future we want", of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012,[7] in particular paragraphs 134 to 137 on sustainable cities and human settlements, in which, inter alia, it is recognized that cities are engines of economic growth which, if well planned and developed, including through integrated planning and management approaches, can promote economically, socially and environmentally sustainable societies, as well as the importance of integrated approaches that enhance overall coherence, promote effective rural-urban linkages and improve the quality of human settlements, including the living and working conditions of both urban and rural dwellers in the context of poverty eradication and achieving sustainable development so that all people have access to basic services, housing and mobility,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 68/309 of 10 September 2014, in which the Assembly welcomed the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals[8] and decided that it should be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, including proposed goal 11, of making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable,

Taking note of the progress made to date in the implementation of the strategic plan for 2014-2019, as reported through the annual progress report,[9] and also the findings of evaluations of activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme,

Taking note also of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the evaluation of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and its recommendations,[10]

Recalling General Assembly resolution 67/226 of 21 December 2012 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of

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[5] General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[6] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum, chap. I, resolution 2, annex).

[7] General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

[8] A/68/970 and Corr.1.

[9] HSP/GC/25/5/Add.2.

[10] E/AC.51/2015/2.

the United Nations system, in which the Assembly, while noting that non-core resources represented an important contribution to the overall resource base of the United Nations development system and complemented core resources to support operational activities for development, recognized that non-core resources posed challenges and might potentially distort programme priorities regulated by intergovernmental bodies and processes,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 69/226, in which the Assembly recognized that, over the years, the responsibilities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme had changed considerably in their scope and complexity and that the requirement to provide substantive and technical support to developing countries had changed in areas related to sustainable cities and human settlements, as reflected in its strategic plan for 2014-2019,

Recalling further its resolution 24/15 of 19 April 2013, in which it requested the Executive Director, working in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to ensure that the results-based strategic framework and work programme and budget documents for the biennium 2016-2017 were aligned with the strategic plan for 2014-2019,

Having considered the proposed work programme and budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 2016-2017[11] and the recommendations set forth in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[12]

1. *Approves* the proposed work programme and budget for 2016-2017,[7] taking into account the relevant decisions of the Governing Council;

2. *Also approves* the general purpose budget of 45,617,500 United States dollars and endorses the special purpose budget of 101,297,500 dollars for the biennium 2016-2017 detailed in the proposed work programme and budget for 2016-2017, and notes an estimated technical cooperation funding of 312,909,000 dollars;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director to ensure that future general purpose budget proposals are more closely aligned with income projections and patterns of expenditure in order to be more realistic and serve as effective tools for financial planning and control;

4. *Notes* that the general purpose resources are allocated for the biennium 2016-2017 for the purposes indicated in the following table:

General purpose resources for the biennium 2016-2017
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Urban legislation, land and governance	3 113.2
Urban planning and design	3 236.9
Urban economy	3 348.6
Housing and slum upgrading	3 637.6
Urban basic services	3 889.8
Risk reduction and rehabilitation	4 426.2

[11] HSP/GC/25/5.
[12] HSP/GC/25/5/Add.1.

Research and capacity development	4 453.5
Subtotal	**27 405.8**
Executive direction and management	13 775.7
Programme support	4 736.0
Total	**45 617.5**

5. *Notes with concern* that the United Nations Human Settlements Programme has in the recent past not met the set financial targets for the programme of work and budget for voluntary non-earmarked core contributions, and recognizes the pragmatic measures adopted by the Executive Director to accord priority to core subprogramme activities and to adjust allocations in accordance with the actual levels of Foundation general purpose and other relevant core contributions throughout the biennium;

6. *Notes* the efforts of the Executive Director to mobilize resources for the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, and requests him to adopt effective measures and to enhance efforts to broaden the donor base of the Foundation general purpose budget, in consultation with member States and in accordance with the Programme's resource mobilization strategy;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director to consult the Committee of Permanent Representatives during the preparation of the results-based strategic framework and work programme and budget documents for the biennium 2018-2019 and to ensure that the two documents are aligned with the strategic plan for 2014-2019;

8. *Calls upon* the Executive Director to report annually to member States and, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to the Governing Council at its twenty-sixth session on progress made in resource mobilization, outcome-level performance, the implementation of the strategic plan and the work programme and budget, including evaluation in line with the results-based management framework;

9. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to mainstream cross-cutting issues in the programmes, projects and activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, in line with its mandate, and to allocate resources accordingly;

10. *Also requests* the Executive Director to continue to strengthen the implementation of results-based management in the programmes, projects, policies and activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and to allocate adequate resources accordingly;

11. *Authorizes* the Executive Director, with a view to ensuring better conformity with the practices of other United Nations bodies, to reallocate resources between subprogrammes up to a maximum of 10 per cent, and to consult the Committee of Permanent Representatives in respect of any allocation above that contained in the programme of work and budget approved by the Governing Council;

12. *Also authorizes* the Executive Director, if necessary, to reallocate funds in excess of 10 per cent and up to 20 per cent of the allocations to the subprogrammes in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives;

13. *Further authorizes* the Executive Director to adjust, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, the level of allocations to subprogrammes, bringing them into line with possible variations in income compared with the approved level of appropriations;

14. *Reiterates its call* upon all member States and stakeholders for financial support to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme through increased voluntary contributions, and encourages more member States and stakeholders to accord priority to contributions to the Foundation general purpose fund in order to provide predictable multi-year funding to support the implementation of the strategic plan for 2014-2019 and the programme of work for 2016-2017;

15. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-sixth session on the implementation by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme of General Assembly resolution 67/226;

16. *Also requests* the Executive Director to enhance his efforts to realize and demonstrate the expected results and impact of the programme objectives of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and for the efficient, effective and transparent use of resources to that end, subject to United Nations processes of review, evaluation and oversight;

17. *Notes with appreciation* that, on 1 January 2015, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme made a successful transition to the International Public Sector Accounting Standards, and in this regard requests the Executive Director to achieve the full implementation of the enterprise resource planning project, Umoja by June 2015 and to ensure adequate training of staff;

18. *Requests* the Executive Director to report annually to member States and, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to the Governing Council at its twenty-sixth session on progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of internal and external evaluations and audits, as contained in the reports of both the internal and independent oversight bodies;

19. *Also requests* the Executive Director, in line with paragraph 18 of the present resolution, to report on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services,[6] pertaining to, among others, risk management, resource mobilization and information and knowledge management;

20. *Further requests* the Executive Director to continue to ensure that trust funds and earmarked contributions to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme are used to fund activities that are in line with the programme of work;

21. *Requests* the Executive Director to submit to the Governing Council for approval at its twenty-sixth session, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, a prioritized, results-oriented and streamlined programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018-2019 that monitors and manages the share of resources devoted respectively to administrative costs and programme activities, with a detailed breakdown of non-post requirements by item

of expenditure, while clearly according priority to the application of the resources to programme activities;

22. *Deeply regrets* that the secretariat made changes to the strategic framework for 2016-2017, which had initially been endorsed by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, and that those changes were effected without prior consultation with the Committee;

23. *Requests* the Executive Director to ensure appropriate consultations with the Committee of Permanent Representatives on the strategic framework and work programme, including on any proposed changes to those documents, throughout the intersessional period;

24. *Also requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

25/4. Implementation of the strategic plan for 2014-2019

The Governing Council,

Recalling its relevant resolutions and decisions on the coordinated implementation of the mandate of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, sustainable urbanization and human settlements, including its resolution 24/15 of 19 April 2013 by which it approved the strategic plan for 2014-2019 and the work programme and budget of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the biennium 2014-2015,

Recalling also relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolutions 66/288 of 27 July 2012, entitled "The future we want", 69/226 of 19 December 2014 on implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and 68/309 of 10 September 2014 on the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 66/288,

Taking note of the fact that, at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Sendai, Japan, from 14 to 18 March 2015, the participants adopted the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030[13] as the successor agreement to the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,[14]

Bearing in mind the upcoming third International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa, the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda in New York and the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Paris and their expected outcomes,

Expressing appreciation to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the progress in the implementation of its strategic plan and work programme through a set of key targeted policies and systems to improve efficiency and productivity,

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[13] A/CONF.224/7, chap. I, resolution 1.

[14] A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 2.

1. *Requests* the Executive Director to further develop and strengthen the linkages between normative work and operational activities with a view to achieving in full the results expected from the implementation of the strategic plan for 2014-2019;

2. *Also requests* the Executive Director to ensure the development of programmes and projects that implement an integrated approach to sustainable urbanization and human settlements and promote effective urban-rural linkages, bearing in mind the strong link between sustainable development and sustainable urbanization and human settlements;

3. *Further requests* the Executive Director to continue the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the prevention of urban violence and crime and for the enhancement of urban safety by creating an inter-agency collaborative framework on safer cities, without prejudice to the distinct mandate of each entity and in full compliance with the financial rules and regulations;

I
Substantive focus and scope

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to increase his efforts to take on board the perspectives of local authorities and have those perspectives incorporated, as appropriate, into the implementation of the outcomes of the post-2015 development agenda and the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III);

5. *Also requests* the Executive Director to increase the capacity-building offered to local governments, in accordance with national and subnational priorities and needs, recognizing that they are key actors in achieving sustainable urbanization and human settlements and sustainable development;

6. *Further requests* the Executive Director to continue to support national and local governments in the development of functionally effective legal and institutional frameworks to facilitate sustainable urbanization and human settlement development that provide for long-term objectives, are non-discriminatory and inclusive and provide the most efficient and locally relevant solutions possible, and encourages member States to consider, as appropriate, the development of an effective policy framework around sustainable urbanization and human settlements;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to raise awareness of the direct relationship between positive urban-rural development linkages and sustainable urbanization and human settlements, to disseminate, in cooperation with appropriate partners, good practices and policies in relation to mutually beneficial urban-rural development relationships and to continue to focus on the development of programmes and projects that implement an integrated approach in order to ensure well-established urban-rural linkages that contribute to achieving sustainable development and poverty eradication;

8. *Encourages* member States to engage in inclusive, participatory and sustainable spatial planning processes that respond to their social, economic and environmental realities, acknowledging urban-rural inequalities;

9. *Welcomes* the efforts of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to support member States in establishing and further developing a

global network of planning and design labs to share good practices and to assist cities and human settlements in achieving more productive, compact, socially inclusive, integrated and connected cities and territories that foster sustainable development and promote public health;

10. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to work with partners to promote urban financing strategies to support sustainable urbanization and human settlements;

11. *Encourages* member States to support the promotion of local economic development activities in order to help to enhance access to financing for sustainable urbanization and human settlements at the local level;

12. *Requests* the Executive Director to further strengthen partnerships, peer learning and a community of practice approach on national urban policies as means of supporting national and local governments as they develop and implement such policies;

13. *Also requests* the Executive Director to develop and implement tools and training programmes to strengthen the capacity of national and local authorities to generate additional revenue from local and other sources, as appropriate;

14. *Further requests* the Executive Director to continue to support and reinforce the coordination of the efforts of the United Nations system, through the Global Land Tool Network, to bring coherence and conflict-sensitive approaches to land issues, including through a plurality of land tenure systems for all segments of society and alternative forms of land administration;

15. *Encourages* member States to facilitate, if necessary in coordination with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the sharing of tools and training programmes with national and local authorities with a view to promoting economically, socially and environmentally sustainable societies;

16. *Takes note* of the "housing at the centre approach", which positions housing at the centre of national urban policies and of cities, and encourages the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and member States to consider the implementation of the Global Housing Strategy, as appropriate, including through the design of tools and mechanisms to promote inclusive housing finance at the national and local levels to bridge the housing gap and to contribute to the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing for all;

17. *Invites* member States and their partners to continue to formulate and implement national housing strategies through the increased use of inclusive broad-based participatory processes and by designing inclusive affordable housing solutions;

18. *Requests* the Executive Director to consider health and well-being aspects, including promotion of and access to health services, in developing policies on urban and territorial planning and human settlements and in the operational work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;

19. *Also requests* the Executive Director, in view of the increasing burden of HIV and associated diseases faced by cities and the unequal access to basic HIV health services by marginalized urban dwellers, to continue to collaborate with member States and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS to examine

the consequences of HIV on urban life and prosperity, to develop an inclusive multisectoral AIDS response as part of housing programmes and to help to measure achievement towards the global target of ending AIDS by 2030;

20. *Further requests* the Executive Director to further advocate and support the implementation of national and city-wide slum-upgrading and urban renewal approaches, building on the past work of the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme and slum prevention activities;

21. *Invites* member States to work towards the prevention of slums, the empowerment of slum communities and the strengthening of institutional mechanisms equipping slum dwellers to contribute to the improvement of the living environment, aiming at promoting social, economic and political inclusion and poverty eradication through, among other things, access to sustainable mobility, skills and capacity development, the creation of job opportunities, in particular for women and young people, public spaces and respect for cultural diversity, and by strengthening linkages to the formal settings in the rural and urban surroundings of slum settlements;

22. *Requests* the Executive Director to address the high rates of youth unemployment by developing high-level programmes and policies, thereby enabling the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to work with member States and local authorities to develop and implement targeted and integrated local and national youth employment and entrepreneurship programmes and policies for inclusive, sustainable and innovative job creation;

23. *Also requests* the Executive Director to continue the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme on the provision of urban basic services, including water and sanitation, drainage, waste management, sustainable energy and urban mobility, as well as improving air quality, according priority to a shift towards the provision of sustainable energy and urban mobility and to support the Urban Basic Services Trust Fund and the Global Expanded Monitoring Initiative, and calls upon member States to consider contributing to the Trust Fund;

24. *Encourages* member States to support initiatives aimed at improving access to sustainable energy and mainstreaming energy efficiency and sustainable energy systems into housing policies and regulations and to support the Urban Electric Mobility Initiative, while promoting hybrid and electric mobility as a priority in conjunction with urban policies in support of compact city planning, energy and resource efficiency, making the transition to sustainable sources of energy and better public transport systems and facilities integrated with safe and attractive non-motorized transport options;

25. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue the activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to address urban challenges relating to displaced populations in a vulnerable situation, including by supporting planned urban growth and slum prevention activities and contributing to global knowledge development through close collaboration with relevant United Nations agencies and other humanitarian organizations, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Rescue Committee and the Norwegian Refugee Council;

26. *Also requests* the Executive Director to support member States, and local governments in particular, as appropriate, in considering the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 2030;[13]

27. *Calls upon* member States, including through local authorities, to consider disaster risk reduction and disaster resilience in spatial planning and in the designation and use of land;

28. *Requests* the Executive Director and Governments to promote international cooperation in order to share technical expertise, build technical and policymaking capacity and share successful experiences of sustainable and integral spatial planning in rural and urban areas;

29. *Calls upon* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to continue its efforts to monitor the trends of sustainable urbanization and human settlements at the global, regional and local levels and to strengthen the capacity of national and local governments, as appropriate, in this regard;

30. *Requests* the Executive Director to promote the enhancement of international cooperation to improve national capacity to collect and analyse relevant data and to strengthen urban rural national and decentralized cadastres, in order to bring about inclusive and sustainable spatial planning that reduces poverty and urban-rural inequalities;

31. *Also requests* the Executive Director to continue the efforts of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to improve knowledge of sustainable urbanization and human settlements modalities at the local, national, regional and global levels through its flagship *State of the World's Cities* report, its regional and national state of the cities reports, its City Prosperity Initiative and its State of the Urban Youth report series, as well as through the transformation of its best practice programme into an interactive database, as the means of responding to the new knowledge requirements of national and local governments and to assist in the formulation of integrated policies;

32. *Further requests* the Executive Director to continue to support the World Urban Forum as a platform to improve collective knowledge and practice on sustainable urban development, to increase collaboration among stakeholders and to raise awareness of the benefits of sustainable urbanization and human settlements, and requests that a strong linkage with the outcome of Habitat III be established at the ninth session of the World Urban Forum, to be held in Kuala Lumpur in 2018;

II
Cross-sectoral issues

33. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to pursue the mainstreaming of youth and gender equality perspectives in the normative work and operational programmes of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and to ensure that youth and gender equality and empowerment remain an important part of the preparatory process for Habitat III and of the substantive content of the New Urban Agenda;

34. *Also requests* the Executive Director to ensure that adequate human and financial resources are allocated for continued youth and gender mainstreaming in

the normative work and operational programmes of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;

35. *Further requests* the Executive Director to continue to build capacity with national and local governments by, among other things, capturing lessons from its operational work in order to help cities and human settlements to mitigate and adapt to climate change and widely disseminating those findings throughout the United Nations system and with policymakers to facilitate better-informed decision-making;

36. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to build upon lessons learned from the operative work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in helping cities to reduce their environmental impact and emissions, addressing their impact on human health and climate change;

37. *Invites* member States to recognize the relevant work of the Compact of Mayors, the City Climate Finance Leadership Alliance and the Resilient Cities Acceleration Initiative launched at the Secretary-General's Climate Summit in 2014;

38. *Requests* the Executive Director to mainstream human rights in the context of advancing the goals and mandate of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, as set out in the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements and the Habitat Agenda,[15] in line with its strategic plan for 2014 2019, which states that all cross-cutting issues will be mainstreamed throughout its seven focus areas;

III
Advocacy and partnerships

39. *Requests* the Executive Director to work on the engagement of new partners through, among other things, the World Urban Campaign, as a platform for public, private and civil society and other actors to share experiences in order to identify good practices that could contribute to sustainable urbanization and human settlements;

40. *Also requests* the Executive Director, in consultation with member States, to strengthen partnerships with Habitat Agenda partners and other stakeholders in the implementation of the strategic plan for 2014-2019 and in contributing to the design of the New Urban Agenda at the national, regional and global levels, as appropriate;

41. *Further requests* the Executive Director to promote, through extrabudgetary resources, regional dialogue on sustainable urbanization and human settlements issues in all regions, in collaboration with relevant intergovernmental bodies, and to promote support for South-South cooperation that provides, among other things, capacity-building for civil society and grass-roots organizations to engage effectively in policy debates;

42. *Calls upon* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to enhance United Nations inter-agency coordination and engagement with intergovernmental organizations and regional development banks in the pursuit of

[15] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

sustainable urbanization and human settlement development at all levels, including active involvement in the United Nations regional coordination mechanisms and support for intergovernmental bodies and regional economic commissions;

43. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue to enhance the contribution of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to United Nations inter-agency coordination and engagement with other intergovernmental organizations in the area of sustainable urbanization and human settlement development at all levels;

44. *Also requests* the Executive Director, in coordination with member States and partners, to forge stronger partnerships with academic institutions and centres of excellence, including through the Habitat Partner University Initiative, professional institutions and development banks to enhance learning and to disseminate knowledge and innovation to harness the opportunities that urbanization processes offer and to provide high-level training and capacity development to local and national governments;

45. *Further requests* the Executive Director to strengthen and coordinate the partnerships of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme with humanitarian and development actors, as well as with all other relevant actors, to capitalize on their respective expertise to help to increase the resilience and preparedness of cities, especially the most fragile, to prevent or cope adequately with disasters and humanitarian crisis situations, paying special attention to the needs of people in vulnerable situations;

46. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-sixth session on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

25/5. Support by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) and the role of national Habitat committees in its preparation and implementation

The Governing Council,

Recalling the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held in Vancouver, Canada, in 1976,[16] and the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held in Istanbul, Turkey, in 1996,[17]

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 69/226 of 19 December 2014, which addressed the convening in 2016 of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), and other relevant resolutions, including Assembly resolution 67/216 of 21 December 2012 and Governing Council resolution 24/14 of 19 April 2013, as well as decisions of the

[16] See *Report of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, Vancouver, 31 May-11 June 1976* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.7 and corrigendum).

[17] See *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

Economic and Social Council and of the Governing Council on the implementation of the outcome of Habitat II, on the strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda,[18]

Recalling further all relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly on the role of national Habitat committees and support by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for Programme countries to mainstream the Habitat Agenda in their respective development frameworks, in particular Assembly resolution 65/165 of 20 December 2010,

Welcoming with appreciation the work of national Habitat committees, which provide a forum for all levels of government, civil society and the private sector to engage in debate on sustainable urbanization and human settlements, drawing on the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements and Habitat II, which recognized the potential of the committees in identifying challenges and reporting on achievements in addressing issues pertaining to human settlements,

Recalling Governing Council resolution 24/10 of 19 April 2013 and General Assembly resolution 69/226, bearing in mind the strong link between sustainable urbanization and human settlements and sustainable development, and the need for effective coordination between the preparatory process for Habitat III and the preparations for the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, to be held in September 2015, in order to promote coherence and to minimize duplication of effort,

Welcoming the decision on preparations for Habitat III adopted by the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development at its second session,

1. *Encourages* member States to take into account, in preparing for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) and the implementation of its outcome to be presented as the "New Urban Agenda", and in the formulation of policies, plans and programmes at the local, national, regional and international levels, the role of sustainable urbanization as a driver of sustainable development, urban-rural linkages and the interlinkages between the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in promoting stable, prosperous and inclusive societies;

2. *Also encourages* member States to establish and support broad-based national Habitat committees, as appropriate and within national governmental and institutional frameworks, to facilitate the coordination of Habitat Agenda partners and major groups and other stakeholders in the areas of sustainable urbanization and human settlements in the national context, to follow up on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and to fulfil other roles as may be recommended by Habitat III;

3. *Urges* member States to expedite and finalize their national reports for Habitat III, requesting, if necessary, and in line with the work programme and budget of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the support of the Programme and other member States, and encourages the participation of all levels

[18] Ibid., annex II.

of government and other stakeholders, including, as appropriate, through national Habitat committees;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to provide technical assistance, upon request, within the framework of the existing mandate and available resources, including tools and guidelines, of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, to support the development of adequate capacity for national Habitat committees to deliver on their responsibilities;

5. *Also requests* the Executive Director to offer, within the framework of existing mandates and available resources, the expertise of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in the elaboration of the Habitat III global report and the technical inputs to the New Urban Agenda, such as issue papers and policy units, as well as the preparatory process as a whole;

6. *Further requests* the Executive Director to promote the wide, effective and improved participation of and contributions by major groups and other stakeholders at all stages of the Habitat III process and in the implementation of its outcome document through the use of, among others, national urban forums, national urban campaigns, regional urban forums, regional consultation mechanisms and the World Urban Campaign and its initiatives;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director to submit to the Governing Council at its twenty-sixth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and on the outcomes of Habitat III.

25/6. International guidelines on urban and territorial planning

The Governing Council,

Recalling its resolution 24/3 of 19 April 2013 on inclusive and sustainable urban planning and elaboration of international guidelines on urban and territorial planning, in which the Council requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to initiate the elaboration of international guidelines on urban and territorial planning that would provide a non-binding global framework for use as appropriate in improving policies, plans and designs for more compact, socially inclusive, sustainable, better integrated and connected cities and territories and to present the draft guidelines to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session for approval,

Having considered the report of the Executive Director,[19] highlighting the progress in developing the international guidelines on urban and territorial planning,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 67/216 of 17 December 2012 on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme,

Recalling also the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012,

[19] HSP/GC/25/2/Add.6.

entitled "The future we want",[20] and reaffirming its commitment to promoting an integrated approach to planning and building sustainable cities and urban settlements, including by supporting local authorities, increasing public awareness and enhancing the participation of urban residents, including the poor, in decision-making,

Acknowledging the coherence and complementarity between the international guidelines on access to basic services for all, adopted by its resolution 22/8 of 3 April 2009, the international guidelines on decentralization and the strengthening of local authorities, adopted by its resolution 21/3 of 20 April 2007, and the international guidelines on urban and territorial planning,

Taking note of the note by the secretariat entitled "International guidelines on urban and territorial planning: towards a compendium of inspiring practices",[21] and noting lessons learned from diverse contexts and planning scales that have informed the development of the international guidelines on urban and territorial planning,

Noting with appreciation the financial contribution of the Governments of France and Japan to support the process of consultation and drafting of the international guidelines on urban and territorial planning,

Expressing appreciation for the leading role of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the contribution of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, the regional offices of the Programme, experts nominated by member States and international associations of local authorities, which have contributed through an inclusive consultative process of drafting and developing the international guidelines on urban and territorial planning,

1. *Approves* the international guidelines on urban and territorial planning set out in section II of the report of the Executive Director[19] as a valuable guide that may be used towards the achievement of sustainable development;

2. *Encourages* member States, according to their circumstances, needs and priorities and as appropriate, to consider urban and territorial planning principles outlined in the guidelines while developing, reviewing and implementing their national urban policies and urban and territorial planning frameworks;

3. *Also encourages* member States to continue to engage with local authorities and other stakeholders, including from civil society, towards the promotion and further refinement of their urban and territorial planning principles;

4. *Calls upon* international financial institutions and development agencies, and requests the Executive Director, within the strategic plan and biennial work programme, to assist interested member States in using and adapting the guidelines to their territorial and national contexts, where appropriate, and further developing tools and monitoring indicators as part of their support for the implementation of the guidelines;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to develop partnerships with other United Nations bodies, regional economic commissions, development banks, member States, local authorities and their associations, relevant international professional associations and non-governmental organizations and other Habitat Agenda partners, to support the

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[20] General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

[21] HSP/GC/25/INF/7.

adaptation and use of the guidelines to local, national and regional circumstances, including through capacity and tool development;

6. *Encourages* member States and partners to support the future work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme with all levels of government on urban and territorial planning, especially in promoting the use of the guidelines on urban and territorial planning;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director, in close consultation with member States and other relevant stakeholders, to report on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution to the Governing Council at its twenty-sixth session.

25/7. United Nations Human Settlements Programme governance reform

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 69/226 of 19 December 2014 on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), in particular paragraph 28, in which the Assembly noted the governance review process of the Programme, encouraged the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the Programme and the Governing Council to continue their consideration of proposals, including recommendations and options for reform, with a view to reaching a consensus at the twenty-fifth session of the Council on how to proceed with the governance review, and underlined that it would consider the report of the Council on that and other issues at its seventieth session,

Recalling also relevant resolutions of the General Assembly on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including its resolutions 64/207 of 21 December 2009, 65/165 of 20 December 2010, 66/207 of 22 December 2011, 67/216 of 21 December 2012 and 68/239 of 27 December 2013, which addressed governance reforms of the Programme in order to improve its transparency, accountability and effectiveness,

Bearing in mind the need to strengthen the governance of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme while at the same time preserving the role of the Committee of Permanent Representatives as its permanent intersessional subsidiary organ, in order to make the Programme more visible, capable of effectively mobilizing member States, the United Nations system and various stakeholders, including Habitat Agenda partners, in relation to existing, new and emerging challenges of sustainable urbanization and human settlements, thereby enhancing the authority and legitimacy of its decisions as the global authoritative body and voice on issues of sustainable urbanization and human settlements,

Reaffirming the importance of accountability, transparency and improved results-based management and further harmonized results-based reporting for increased quantity and quality of funding for operational activities, while recognizing the need to ensure adequate quantity and quality of funding for the operational and normative activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including its core resources, and the need to make funding more predictable, efficient and effective,

Recognizing the need for greater oversight of the programme of work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme,

1. *Decides* to strengthen the oversight role of the Governing Council and the Committee of Permanent Representatives by requesting the Committee to establish a working group on programme and budget, consisting of three representatives of each regional group, to increase oversight of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme during intersessional periods, and in this regard also decides:

(a) That each regional group shall nominate its three representatives for the Working Group, who will serve for a single term between consecutive sessions of the Governing Council;

(b) That the meetings, briefings and deliberations of the Working Group shall be open to observers of all States Members of the United Nations and intergovernmental organizations, with their views taken into due consideration by the Working Group;

(c) That the Working Group shall meet regularly, and no less than twice a year for three days, to make actionable recommendations to the Executive Director and submit periodic reports to the Committee at each of its regular sessions and biennial reports to the Council, through the Committee, on its activities and on the status of implementation by the Executive Director of its recommendations;

2. *Also decides* that the Working Group shall perform the following tasks:

(a) Consider the periodic reports, written briefs and informational notes of the Executive Director on the progress in the implementation of the programme of work and budget of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and make recommendations thereon;

(b) Consider the periodic reports, written briefs and informational notes of the Executive Director on the status of implementation of the reports of oversight bodies, including, inter alia, those of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, the Board of Auditors, the Independent Audit Advisory Committee, the Joint Inspection Unit and the overall internal evaluation function of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, and any other reports, such as audits and evaluations, mandated as appropriate, and make recommendations thereon;

(c) Promote the alignment of draft country programme documents and annual implementation plans with the biennial work programme and budget, strategic framework and midterm strategic plan of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including by giving appropriate guidance thereon;

(d) Review the reports of the Executive Director on the status of implementation of the resource mobilization strategy of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, as well as the Programme's financial status, and make recommendations thereon;

(e) Review the reports of the Executive Director on the status of implementation of the communication strategy of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and make recommendations thereon;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director to provide the following documents to the Working Group:

(a) Results-based reports on achievements in the implementation of the programme of work and budget and strategic plan, including analysis of the main challenges and proposed remedial actions;

(b) Draft country programme documents and annual implementation plans;

(c) Updates on the implementation of recommendations received following audits and evaluations;

(d) Updates on the implementation of the resource mobilization strategy of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;

(e) Updates on the implementation of the communication strategy of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;

(f) Any other reports requested by the Working Group within its mandate;

4. *Also requests* the Executive Director to implement the recommendations and guidance provided by the Working Group on the issues outlined in paragraph 2 of the present resolution;

5. *Decides* to review the implementation of the present resolution at the twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council, at which time a decision on the continuation of the activities of the Working Group shall be taken.

B. Decisions

25/1. Amendment to rule 19 of the rules of procedure of the Governing Council

The Governing Council, having heard the report of the working group established at the twenty-fifth session to consider the amendment to rule 19 of the rules of procedure of the Governing Council, decides to amend rule 19 of the rules of procedure, in accordance with rule 69, to read:

Rule 19

The President, Vice-Presidents and Rapporteur shall hold office until their successors are elected. They shall, subject to the provisions of rule 17, be eligible for re-election. None of them may hold office after the expiration of the term of office of the member of which he or she is a representative.

If during a session of the Governing Council the President is unable to permanently perform his or her functions, the Bureau shall designate one of the Vice-Presidents as Acting President until a new President is elected by the Council upon nomination by the State or the regional group of States to which that member belongs and for the remainder of the term.

If during a session of the Governing Council a Vice-President or the Rapporteur is unable to permanently carry out any of her or his functions, the Council may elect a replacement upon nomination by the State or the regional group of States to which that member belongs and for the remainder of the term.

If during an intersessional period of the Governing Council the President, a Vice President or the Rapporteur resigns or is unable to exercise his or her functions, or if the Member State of which he or she is a representative ceases to be a member of the Council, the State or the regional group of States to which that member belongs shall nominate a replacement for the remainder of the term. The Executive Director shall, upon receipt of the nomination, inform all members of the Council of the nomination in writing. Unless objections from a majority of the members of the Council are received by the Executive Director in writing within 30 days of the dispatch of the nomination, the nominee is deemed duly elected.

25/2. Provisional agenda for the twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

The Governing Council decides that the provisional agenda for its twenty-sixth session shall be as follows:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Credentials.
4. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
5. Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including coordination matters.
6. Review of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III).
7. Dialogue on the special theme for the twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council.
8. Work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 2018-2019.
9. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the twenty-seventh session of the Governing Council.
10. Other matters.
11. Adoption of the report of the session.
12. Closure of the session.

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